



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/492,811	01/28/2000	John W. Becker	7436.100A	1405

7590 09/16/2002

Thomas P. Liniak  
MYERS LINIAK & BERENATO  
5550 Rock Spring Drive  
Suite 240  
Bethesda, MD 20817

EXAMINER

DESAI, HEMANT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3721

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/492,811

Applicant(s)

BECKER ET AL.

Examiner

Hemant M Desai

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 and 22-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-20 and 22-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 13-20, 22-51 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shea (5314087).

Shea discloses an inner container assembly (1, 5, fig. 1), designed to be removably inserted into an outer container (6, fig. 1) comprising a bottom, collapsible (clearly inherent as discussed in col. 2, lines 30-34) opposing first and second side walls and front and back walls (fig. 1), each constructed of a flexible insulating material (13, 27, fig. 2a) having one metalized surface (29, fig. 2a) the first and second side walls and the front and back walls forming an integral moisture proof seal with the bottom and each other, an integral foldable side, front and back flaps (12, fig. 1) extending above the side walls, front wall and back wall, comprising a top edge that is substantially straight along its entire length (see fig. 4, Shea discloses, col. 4, lines 35-47, to combine two containers, 1 and 5).

Regarding claim 17, Shea discloses that front and back walls (see fig. 1) each have a gusseted reinforcement.

Regarding claims 18 and 19, Shea discloses a selectively releasable means (see col. 3, lines 14-15) for securing the first side flap to the second side flap.

Regarding claims 20-22 and 30, Shea discloses that the front flap is connected to the edges of both the first and second side flaps and they are integral (see fig. 1).

Regarding claims 23-24, Shea discloses that the top is formed with the front and back flaps folded.

Regarding claims 25, 31 and 39, Shea discloses that the bottom is substantially flat.

Regarding claims 32-33, 36 and 40, since the inner container is collapsible it is an inherent design feature that side walls are perpendicular to the bottom in the open position and parallel to the bottom in the folded position and the side walls in the folded position have a length and width that is no greater than the bottom.

Regarding claims 46-51, Aghassipour teaches a container (22, figs. 5-6) having a metalized surface (15, fig. 1a-1b) extending throughout the wall to keep cold contents cold for substantially long periods of time (see col. 1, lines 45-65). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at time of invention to provide a metalized surface (15, fig. 1a-1b) extending throughout the wall as taught by Aghassipour to keep cold contents cold for substantially long periods of time.

7. Alternatively, Claims 13-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shea (5314087) and Aghassipour and further in view of McCord (728749).

This rejection is made to further show the well-known use of collapsible container in the packaging art. Shea's modified container, as mentioned above, shows a

collapsible container but may not show collapsible sidewalls and the top edge that is substantially straight along its entire length.

However, McCord teaches a collapsible container (A, figs. 1-5) having collapsible side walls (A3, figs. 1-3) and the top edge that is substantially straight along its entire length (see figs. 1-3) to provide a strong box and at the same time one which can be readily folded whenever desired (see lines 75-79). Regarding claims 32-33, 36 and 40, McCord teaches that side walls are perpendicular to the bottom in the open position and parallel to the bottom in the folded position (see figs. 2 and 5) and the side walls in the folded position have a length and width that is no greater than the bottom (see fig. 5). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at time of invention to provide a collapsible side walls box structure as taught by McCord in the modified inner container of Shea to provide a stronger box and at the same time one which can be readily folded whenever desired

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-20, 22-51 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hemant M Desai whose telephone number is (703) 308-5830. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM-5: 30 PM, Mon-Thurs..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on (703) 308-2187. The fax phone numbers

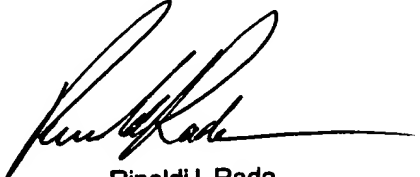
Art Unit: 3721

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3579 for regular communications and (703) 308-7769 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3576.

Hemant M Desai  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3721

HMD  
September 12, 2002



Rinaldi I. Rada  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Group 3700